

5 Intelligent Roaming Method For Enabling A Mobile Station To Select
 A Preferred Neutral Service Provider Within A Communication System

 Abstract of the Disclosure

10 An intelligent roaming method enables a mobile station (68) to select a preferred neutral
 service provider from a plurality of service providers within a communication system. The mobile
 station (68) identifies (S.4) a current communication system servicing a geographic area where the
 mobile station (68) is presently located. The mobile station (68) determines that the current
 communication system identified is not serviced by a home service provider (S.6) or by a preferred
 service provider (S.12) having a roaming agreement with the home service provider. Upon not
15 finding home or preferred service, the mobile station (68) determines whether or not it is
 programmed for full service priority (S.16.2). If the mobile station (68) is programmed for full
 service priority, then mobile station (68) selects (S.16.8) the current communication system as the
 preferred neutral service provider (S.16.7) only when a frequency band of the current
 communication system corresponds to a first frequency band of frequency bands listed in priority
20 order in a system access list (SAL) (S.16.4) stored in the mobile station (68) to permit the mobile
 station (68) to obtain full service (i.e., make and receive calls per roaming agreement) from the
 current communication system. Alternatively, the mobile station (68) selects (S.16.6) the current
 communication system as a foreign service provider (S.16.5) when the frequency band of the current
 communication system does not correspond to the first frequency band of frequency bands listed in
25 priority order in the SAL to permit the mobile station (68) to obtain emergency service (i.e., only
 make "911" calls and not receive calls) from the current communication system. If the mobile
 station (68) is not programmed for full service priority, then mobile station selects (S.16.3) the
 current communication system as a neutral service provider to permit the mobile station (68) to
 obtain limited service (i.e., only make credit card calls and not receive calls) from the current
30 communication system.